

## 1998 FATAL VICTIMS UNDER FOUR YEARS OF AGE

From January through December 1998 there was a total of 46 children under four years of age killed in traffic collisions. In 15 of the deaths, no safety seat was used and/or present; 7 were in improperly used safety seats; and only 10 were in safety seats that were correctly used. In the other 14 fatalities, safety seats were present but not used [5], only adult belts were used [7] or use was unknown [2].

In the collision summaries, this symbol (☆) after the date indicates that the victim was Hispanic or had an Hispanic surname. 50 percent of the fatal victims (23) were in this category.

### VICTIMS BY YEAR

### 27360 CITATIONS

(CHP ONLY)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>KILLED</u>	<u>INJURED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1998	46	3,097	12,775
1997	33	3,036	14,866
1996	35	3,626	15,516
1995	59	3,817	15,359
1994	56	4,127	16,060
1993	48	4,357	18,797
1992	59	4,705	21,578
1991	70	4,793	24,190
1990	64	5,109	21,476
1989	43	5,102	18,420
1988	60	4,855	15,196
1987	66	4,792	15,473
1986	50	4,212	12,620
1985	53	4,050	14,593
1984	57	4,177	11,879
1983	60	4,273	6,315*
1982	46	4,679	
1981	58	4,716	
1980	47	4,652	

\*(1983 CITES STARTED 4/1/83)

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[The following is the format for the information contained in these reports.]

DATE TIME/CITY/COUNTY/. VICTIM. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT.  
RESTRAINT USE

### JANUARY

- 01 1650/Ontario/San Bernardino. **2-YR-OLD MALE**. Driver caught up to a slower moving vehicle, started to pass on the left but that lane was blocked by another vehicle. The driver then swerved to back to the right and lost control of his vehicle which overturned and struck a tree. Child was ejected from the vehicle.  
**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**
- 02 1715/Uninc./Butte. **3-YEAR-OLD MALE**. Driver (father) was driving under the influence (.21 BAC). Second DUI driver (.23 BAC) allowed her vehicle to drift over the center line and strike the first vehicle head on. Child was seated in the middle of the rear seat restrained by only an adult lap belt. Fatal injuries were suffered when his head struck the back of the front seat.  
**ADULT LAP BELT ONLY/PREVENTABLE**
- 03☆ 1125/Lynwood/Los Angeles. **1-YEAR-OLD FEMALE**. Driver (father) lost control of his vehicle which then spun into the path of a second vehicle. Child was riding in the right rear seating position and restrained by only an adult lap belt. Father stated he had a child safety seat, but had taken it out to permit more passengers to ride in his vehicle.  
**ADULT LAP BELT ONLY/PREVENTABLE**
- 11☆ 1603/Daly City/San Mateo. **3-YR-OLD FEMALE AND 2-YR-OLD MALE**. Two mothers decided to take a friend and four children to rent videos. They said they didn't use safety seats because there wasn't enough room in the vehicle for the seats and all passengers. The car had smooth tires and hydroplaned on the wet roadway causing the driver to lose control and spin into the center divider. The impact ejected both children who were riding unrestrained in the back seat.  
**NO SAFETY SEATS/PREVENTABLE**

### **JANUARY (Continued)**

- 15☆ 1645/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) lost control of her vehicle on wet pavement while entering the freeway. Her vehicle spun into the freeway traffic lanes and was struck by a second vehicle. Child was riding forward facing in a seat designed to be used rear facing only and suffered fatal abdominal injuries.

**IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**

- 18☆ 1145/Ontario/San Bernardino. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver attempted to make a left turn and was struck by a second vehicle. Child was riding on his mother's lap and suffered fatal head injuries.

**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

- 25☆ 0140/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. **3-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (father) was DUI (.12 BAC) and arguing with the mother when he lost control of the vehicle. It left the roadway and struck a guardrail. The impact ejected the unrestrained child who suffered fatal head injuries.

**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

### **FEBRUARY**

- 14☆ 1555/Uninc./San Bernardino. **3-YR-OLD MALE.** Sleepy driver allowed her vehicle to drift over the center line and strike a second vehicle head on. Child was an unrestrained passenger in the second vehicle. A child of the same age in the first vehicle was riding in a properly used child safety seat was uninjured.

**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE.**

- 17☆ 1717/Santa Rosa/Sonoma. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** A DUI (.28 BAC) driver, side-swiped a vehicle and then drove away from the collision scene. A second driver chased the fleeing driver. The DUI driver began traveling at a high rate of speed, passing cars on a two lane road on the right and the left. Eventually the DUI driver struck a third vehicle head on, flipped and struck a third vehicle. The child was riding in the third vehicle.

**SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**

- 27☆ 1914/Hanford/Kings. **3-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) allowed her daughter to ride in the right, rear passenger seat without being restrained in a child safety seat. When the driver made a left turn, she heard wind noise coming from the rear of the vehicle and noticed that the right, rear door was open and the child was missing. Child suffered fatal injuries when she fell out of the moving vehicle and was struck by the vehicle's rear tire.

**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

## MARCH

- 22☆ 2015/Uninc./San Bernardino. **3-YR-OLD MALE.** DUI driver allowed his vehicle to swerve over the center line and strike second vehicle head on. Child was riding in the center of the rear seat of the first vehicle restrained only by an adult lap belt.  
**ADULT LAP BELT ONLY/PREVENTABLE**

## APRIL

- 14 1901/Uninc./Nevada. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) was involved in a weather related (heavy hail) chain reaction collision. After the collision she removed her safety belt and moved to the rear of the van. She then unbuckled her uninjured child from the safety seat and at that point her vehicle was struck by another vehicle. The impact ejected the mother and child.  
**SAFETY SEAT PRESENT BUT NOT USED/PREVENTABLE**
- 19 1740/Uninc./Tehama. **3-YR-OLD MALE.** DUI driver (mother) was operating her vehicle at a high rate of speed when she encountered a curve, lost control and her vehicle struck two utility poles, severing one completely. Child was wearing only an adult lap belt.  
**ADULT LAP BELT ONLY/PREVENTABLE**

- 30☆ 2215/Uninc./Tulare. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** DUI (.15 BAC) driver attempted to pass a slower vehicle on the right. Second vehicle was making a right turn and was struck from the rear. First vehicle continued on into a field and overturned ejecting the child who was being held on his mother's lap. The mother was wearing a lap/shoulder safety belt and suffered only minor injuries.  
**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

## MAY

- 01 1058/Uninc./Humboldt. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Truck driver lost control of his vehicle in moderate rain. Vehicle "jackknifed" and slid into second vehicle. Child was not restrained and suffered fatal injuries.  
**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**
- 04☆ 1635/Ontario/San Bernardino. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (father) was crossing an intersection when a second vehicle passed stopped cross traffic on the right and struck the first vehicle broadside. Child was at the point of massive impact.  
**SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**

## MAY (Continued)

- 06 2040/Riverside/Riverside. **2-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) suffered an apparent epileptic seizure while operating her vehicle. Vehicle veered off the roadway and struck a pole. Child was in an improperly used safety seat.  
**IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**
- 09 1315/Uninc./Tuolumne. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Sleepy driver allowed her vehicle to drift off the roadway and overturn. Child was riding in a forward facing safety seat which was only loosely attached with the safety belt. In addition, the safety seat shoulder straps were not tightened and according to the instructions on the safety seat a child of this size and weight should have been riding in the rear facing position. Child was ejected from the vehicle.  
**IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**
- 11☆ 2320/Uninc./San Bernardino. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Child was riding on his father's lap in the right front seat when the driver (mother) fell asleep. As the car drifted off the roadway the driver woke up, overcorrected and lost control causing the vehicle to roll over. Child and his father were fully ejected from the vehicle and both suffered fatal injuries. Child's safety seat was attached to the rear seat, but unused.  
**SAFETY SEAT PRESENT BUT NOT USED/PREVENTABLE**

## JUNE

- 12☆ 2305/Uninc./Kern. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (father) was operating a poorly maintained and unsafe vehicle when a mechanical failure separated the left rear wheel assembly from the vehicle. The driver lost control of his vehicle which left the roadway and overturned, partially ejecting the unrestrained child.  
**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**
- 14☆ 1115/Industry/Los Angeles. **3-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (grandfather) was approaching a rail crossing when he observed the train backing into the crossing. There was no warning of the approaching train because the signal lights and crossing arms malfunctioned. The driver braked and attempted to turn away from the train, but could not avoid a collision. The child was riding in an adult lap only belt.  
**NO SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**

**JUNE** (Continued)

- 19☆ 1255/Uninc./Ventura. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) lost control of her vehicle when the right rear tire lost air pressure. Vehicle entered the dirt center divider and overturned. Child was riding in the right front seat but not in a child safety seat. His mother failed to properly secure the active (lap) portion of the right front active/passive restraint system so only the passive shoulder portion of the system was functioning. It provided insufficient protection for the child.  
**ADULT RESTRAINT ONLY/PREVENTABLE**
- 23☆ 1001/Irvine/Orange. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) made a left turn and her vehicle was struck by oncoming traffic. Child was riding in the right front passenger position seated in a child safety seat but not buckled into the seat. Upon impact the child flew out the passenger door window and struck the hood of a third vehicle. 7-year-old brother was riding in the back seat and wearing an adult lap belt. He suffered minor injuries.  
**IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**
- 26 0420/Uninc./Merced. **2-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (father) fell asleep and allowed her vehicle to drift off the roadway and overturn. Child was sharing an adult safety belt with a 5-yr-old child. Both were ejected and killed. Safety seat was stowed in the trunk to make room for additional passengers.  
**SHARED ADULT LAP BELT/PREVENTABLE**
- 26 1027/Walnut Creek/Contra Costa. **1-YR-OLD AND 2-YEAR-OLD FEMALES.** Driver (mother) stopped her vehicle in the painted dividing section between two freeway transition roads. She then pulled out directly into the path of a large truck which could not stop prior to striking her vehicle. The smaller vehicle caught fire and all passengers in the vehicle were killed. The older child was seated in the right front seat restrained with an adult lap/shoulder belt. The younger child was riding in a child safety seat in the right rear.  
**ONE SAFETY SEAT AND ONE ADULT LAP-SHOULDER BELT**
- 27☆ 0017/Uninc./San Diego. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Sleepy driver (mother) allowed her vehicle to drift off the roadway and overturn. Child, riding on the lap of another passenger, was ejected. A safety seat was in the vehicle, unused.  
**SAFETY SEAT PRESENT BUT NOT USED/PREVENTABLE**

## JULY

- 05 1600/Uninc./San Joaquin. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) entered an intersection without seeing oncoming traffic. Second vehicle struck first vehicle broadside. Child was at point of impact.  
**SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**

## AUGUST

- 02 1045/Uninc./Santa Barbara. **3-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver became impatient while driving behind slower traffic on twisting two-lane road. When he crossed a double yellow line and attempted to pass the slower vehicle he lost control of his vehicle which then spun off the road and down a ravine, rolling several times. Child suffered fatal injuries when the roof of the vehicle was crushed down onto the seat by a large rock.  
**SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**
- 14☆ 2143/Hollister/San Benito. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver of speeding vehicle entered an intersection against a red light and struck a smaller vehicle broadside. Child was a passenger in the second vehicle sitting at the point of impact.  
**SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**

- 16 1525/Uninc./Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver reported hearing a loud noise in the front of the vehicle and immediately lost control. Vehicle (van) left the roadway and overturned, ejecting the child.  
**SAFETY SEAT PRESENT BUT NOT USED/PREVENTABLE**
- 19 2135/Uninc./Tulare. **3-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Truck driver failed to see a stop sign until it was too late to stop before entering the intersection. Second vehicle struck the truck broadside. Child in second vehicle was unrestrained.  
**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

## SEPTEMBER

- 03 1245/Uninc./Solano. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (father) was driving aggressively after a second vehicle nearly struck his vehicle. The abrupt movements led to a loss of control and the vehicle left the roadway and rolled over, ejecting the child. Lap belt which was used to anchor safety seat was improperly attached to the seat.  
**SAFETY SEAT/IMPROPER USE**

## **SEPTEMBER** (Continued)

- 05☆ 1150/Uninc./Fresno. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) entered an intersection in front of oncoming vehicle which struck her vehicle broadside. Child was at point of impact.

### **SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**

- 10 2025/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) was driving at a high rate of speed when her vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree.

### **SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**

- 19 1323/Uninc./Orange. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) was stopped behind a second vehicle when a third vehicle failed to stop and struck the rear of the her vehicle. Impact pushed her vehicle into the one ahead. Child was a passenger in the first vehicle riding in a forward-facing child safety seat which was incorrectly installed (locking clip present but not used and incorrect insertion points utilized for adult belt). This incorrect installation allowed the seat to rotate forward toward the dashboard as the supplemental restraint system (airbag) deployed. Child suffered fatal injury from contact with the airbag.

### **IMPROPER USE**

- 19 UNK/Uninc./Sacramento. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Inexperienced driver (mother) was operating her vehicle at a speed unsafe for conditions on a narrow, riverside roadway. For unknown reasons, driver lost control and her vehicle left the roadway, overturned and entered the river. Driver and child both drowned.

### **SAFETY SEAT**

## **OCTOBER**

- 04☆ 1714/Lynwood/Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) lost control of her vehicle for unknown reasons and spun into the path of a second vehicle. Impact sprung open the door of the first vehicle, ejecting the unrestrained child.

### **SAFETY SEAT PRESENT BUT NOT USED/PREVENTABLE**

- 14 1522/Palm Springs/Riverside. **3-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver, for unknown reasons allowed his vehicle to cross over the center line and strike second vehicle. Driver of second vehicle attempted to avoid the collision by turning to the right. Second vehicle was struck broadside by the first. Child was a passenger in the second vehicle at point of impact.

### **SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**



## **NOVEMBER**

- 18 2058/Vallejo/Solano. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) lost control of her vehicle while attempting to avoid a dead animal in the road. Vehicle left the roadway, overturned and struck a tree. Child was riding in a safety seat, but not attached to it and was ejected.

**IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**

- 22☆ 1630/Uninc./Tulare. **2-YR-OLD FEMALE AND 3-YR-OLD MALE.** DUI driver (father) entered intersection directly into the path of oncoming traffic. Children and their mother (all unrestrained) were ejected and killed.

**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

## **DECEMBER**

- 11 2038/Uninc./Tulare. **1-YR-OLD AND 2-YR-OLD FEMALES.** Driver for unknown reasons allowed his vehicle to run off the roadway, strike a bridge abutment and overturn into a canal. Six people lost their lives in this collision. Safety belt/seat use is unknown.

**UNKNOWN.**

- 19 1720/Uninc./San Diego. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) allowed her vehicle to cross the center line and collide head-on with second vehicle.

**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**